



# Community Advisory Group

## *The Community Voice in EPA Decisions*

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# Meeting Purpose

- Share what an EPA Community Advisory Group is.
- Share the work required to set up a successfully operating CAG.
- Determine next steps for the Lane Plating CAG formation process.

# CAG Overview



# ■ A Community Advisory Group Is...

- A mechanism to make sure that the communities' voice factors into EPA decisions about site cleanup and other environmental issues.
- An opportunity to better understand some of the technical aspects of the cleanup.
- YOUR CAG!



# What a Community Advisory Group Does

- Holds CAG meetings and committee meetings that are open to the public.
- Reviews technical information and provides feedback from the community perspective to inform EPA decision-making.
- Requests specific information and subject matter briefings from EPA, State and City officials.
- Works to keep the larger community up to speed and to work with all stakeholders to solve environmental problems.

# Important CAG Activities

- Attend meetings, do research, participate in workgroups and committee work, ask questions and bring ideas to the table.
- Encourage neighbors to come and attend public meetings and be part of the process.
- Help inform others in the community about environmental problems and the cleanup process.
- Add information and expertise that helps build understanding.
- Provide material or other support.

# Keys to Success

- CAG membership and leadership that have the time to do the work.
- Being well set up and organized.
- Participation by all stakeholders.
- Open to all viewpoints.
- Patience and persistence.
- Support for and from the whole community.

# Why Have a Lane Plating CAG?

- It has been proven that better decisions get made when the community has input.
- Enable community discussions of a full range of concerns, questions and needs to better understand the cleanup process.
- Present community views, concerns and information needs to EPA, State, City agencies, and others.
- Get up-to-date information about status of cleanup, project phases, timelines and plans for immediate next steps.

# How do other stakeholders get involved?

- As an interested resident, attend CAG meetings and be engaged while there.
- Attend separate EPA Public Meetings and work with EPA.
- Keep your neighbors informed.

| Any Questions?





# Community Advisory Groups in Action



# Gowanus Canal CAG

Brooklyn, NY

[www.gowanuscag.org](http://www.gowanuscag.org)

## Charter

- Vision & Mission
- Structure and Composition
- Statement of Principles
- Membership
- Committees
- CAG Activities
- Committee Activities
- CAG Liaisons

# **From the Gowanus Canal Community Advisory Group (CAG)**

## **Charter, Brooklyn, NY**

### **Section 1. Vision Statement**

The clean-up of the canal presents a historic and remarkable opportunity to realize the hopes and dreams of the community for its future. We recognize that these aspirations are as diverse as our community. We are, however, united in our belief that open dialogue will ensure a remedy of the Gowanus Canal Superfund site that is protective of the environment and human health. Our vision for the Gowanus Canal Community Advisory Group (CAG) is to advance these hopes and dreams by working together in ways that build trust and utilize intensive transparency, collaboration, and leadership.

# **From the Gowanus Canal Community Advisory Group (CAG) Charter, Brooklyn, NY**

## **Section 2. CAG Mission**

The mission of the CAG is to be a forum for dialogue between representatives of all segments of the community about the federal Superfund clean-up of the Gowanus Canal and other related issues of concern to the community. The CAG's roles may include, but not be limited to:

- ❖ Disseminating information to the community
- ❖ Gathering information from the community and various sources
- ❖ Discussing and assessing information
- ❖ Adopting and voicing positions
- ❖ Problem-solving issues relating to the clean-up and the community
- ❖ Providing input and guidance to EPA and others

# BoRit Asbestos Superfund CAG

Ambler, Pennsylvania

[www.boritcag.org](http://www.boritcag.org)

## CAG Mission & Goals

- Roles and Responsibilities
- Decision-making Process
- CAG Procedures
- Safeguards and Ground Rules for Public Meetings

# **From the BoRit Asbestos Site Community Advisory Group (CAG) Charter, Ambler, PA**

## **CAG DECISION PROCESS**

### **A. Consensus and Voting**

The CAG will endeavor to operate by consensus of all Members who are present at the meeting, but will utilize straw (non-binding or informal) voting and formal voting as needed to assess Member views. Consensus is defined as unanimous support of all members present, given a quorum. A quorum is defined as the presence of a majority of the seated CAG Members (excluding representatives of EPA, DEP, ATSDR and PADOH and any currently vacant seats).



# **From the BoRit Asbestos Site Community Advisory Group (CAG) Charter, Ambler, PA**

## **B. Majority/Minority Reports**

If the CAG is unable to reach consensus on its recommendations, the CAG may report its findings in majority and minority reports. In addition, CAG Members wishing to abstain from any particular CAG position or recommendation may request that the abstention be noted clearly in the meeting summary and in any documents prepared and submitted by the CAG

# Bonita Peak Mining District CAG

Animas River, CO

[www.bonitapeakcag.org](http://www.bonitapeakcag.org)

## Mission and Operating Procedures

- Steering Committee
- Conducting Meetings
- Decision Making
- Executive Session
- Conflict of Interest
- Meeting Summaries
- Video and Audio Taping
- Members' Terms and Reappointment
- Attendance and Possible Removal

# **From the Bonita Creek Mining District CAG Animas River, CO**

## *Conflict of Interest*

If a CAG member has a direct personal or private interest (particularly financial) in a position the CAG may take, that member shall recuse themselves from the discussion or any voting on any motion taken with regard to that position. If a member is not sure if he or she has conflict of interest, the member shall disclose why they might have a conflict and let other members discuss if a recusal is warranted.

| Any Questions?



# Providing Community Input for EPA Technical Documents



# Providing Community Input to EPA

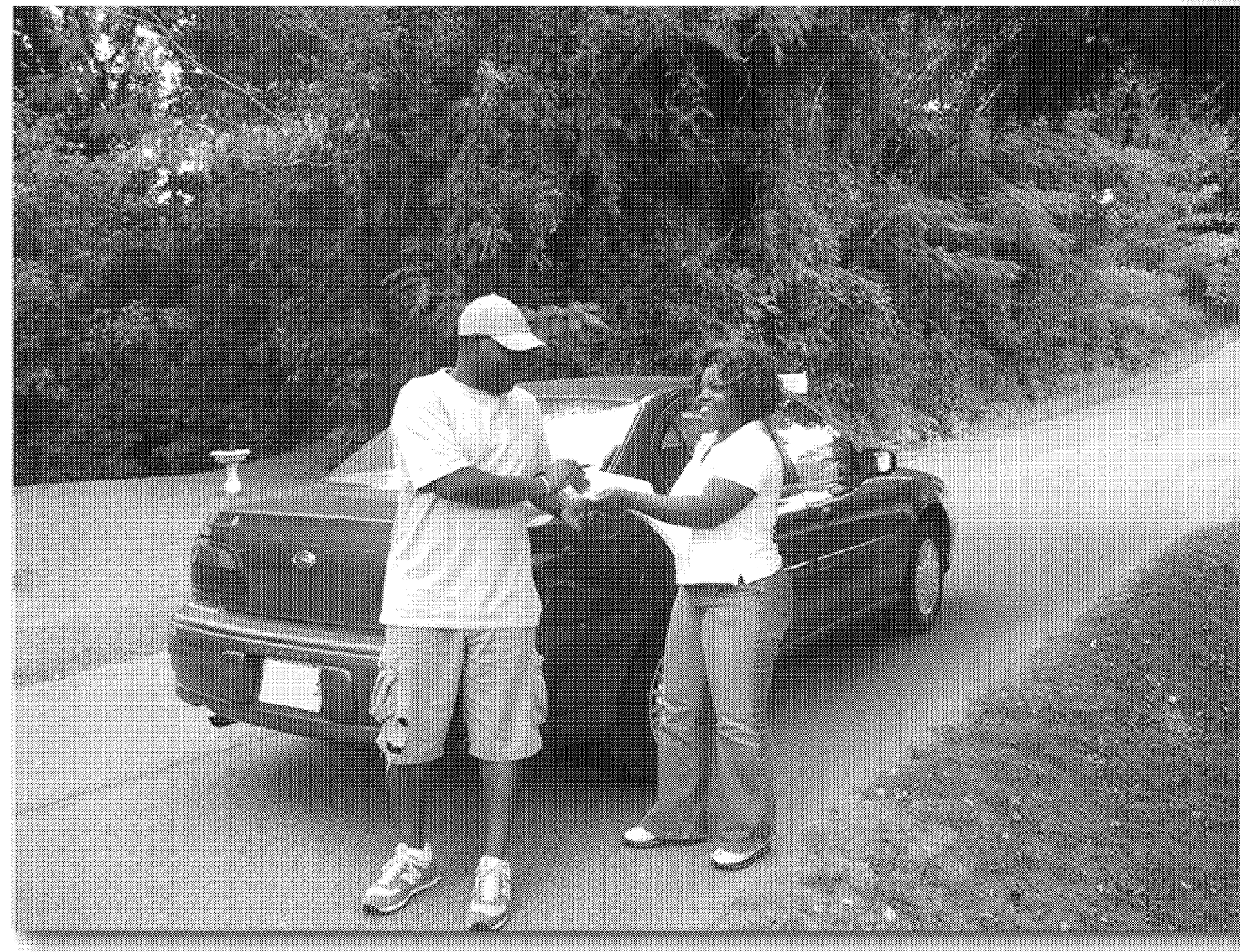
- A CAG can identify groups or individuals to review and provide input for EPA technical documents
- A CAG can also get support from:
  - EPA Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)
  - EPA Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC)



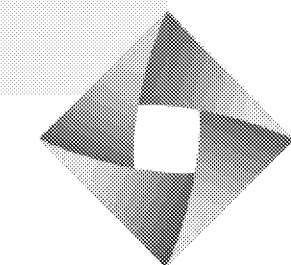
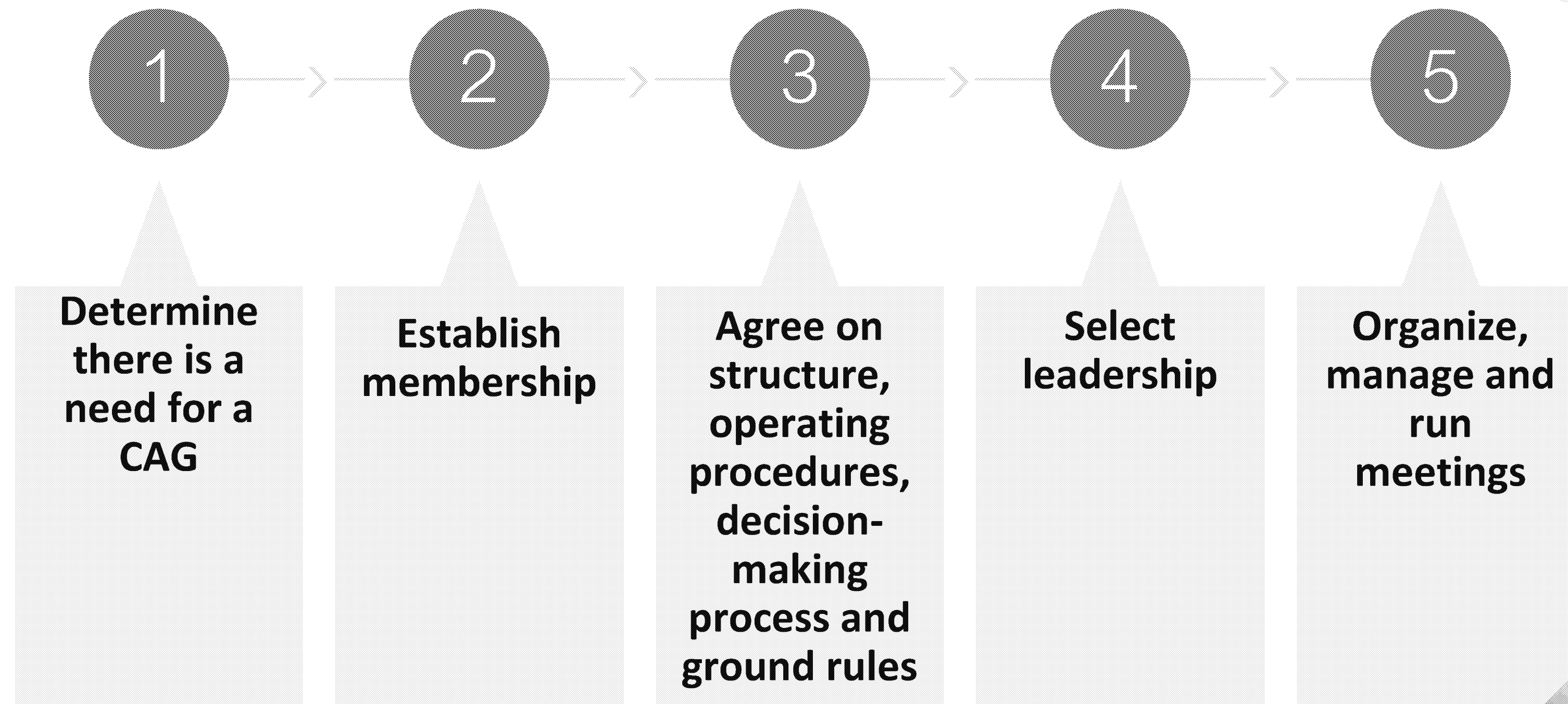
| Any Questions?



# Next steps in forming a CAG for the Lane Plating Site



# Steps for Forming a CAG



# Discussion Questions

- What do you need to accomplish between now and the first public CAG meeting?
- Who will lead these activities?
- On what timeline?
- When might you aim to host the first public CAG meeting?

# Contacts

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